

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 3, 5, 8, 11-14 and 18 have been amended, and claim 1 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 3-9, 11-16 and 18 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1 and 3-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 5,376,998. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of review, Suzuki illustrates in FIGS. 2 and 5 example embodiments where individual resistors, e.g., R1-1, are used to control each development unit, separately.

In FIG. 2, each resistor is individually used to present a 'sleeve voltage' to each separate development unit. See Suzuki in col. 5, lines 5-30.

Here, each resistor is unrelated and not inter-connected with the other resistors for the other development units.

In FIG. 5, a pause bias power source voltage is added to the system of FIG. 2 to individually apply the pause bias voltage across respective resistors for each respective development unit. See Suzuki, in col. 5, lines 55 – 68.

Here, regardless of where the bias power source voltage initially is derived, the bias power source voltage is not the voltage provided from the AC drive circuit and the Development DC bias power source.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Suzuki fails to disclose at least the claimed inter-connected resistors of claims 3, 8, 14, and 18.

Similarly, it is respectfully submitted that Suzuki fails to disclose at least the claimed self-bias operation, such as the self-bias operation of claim 5 "to self-bias the fixed color development rollers except the fixed color development roller supplied with the high development voltage," and as also set forth in claims 11-13 and 16.

Here, similarly, claims 5, 11-13, and 16 also particularly claim that the "high developing voltage" supplied to a fixed color development roller is also supplied the other fixed color development rollers. In addition, in claim 5, the same voltage is applied to the other fixed color

development rollers after voltage division. Further, claim 11, for example, recites "a high developing voltage supply supplying the high developing voltage to developing roller shafts of the other color development rollers," with this "high developing voltage" also being applied to one of the color development roller assigned for development. Claims 12, 13, and 16 similarly set forth this same voltage usage.

Suzuki fails to disclose any of the above inter-connection of the claimed resistors, the self-bias operation, and the use of the same voltage for the other fixed color development rollers as used for a selected development roller.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 3 and 5 are patentably distinguishable from Suzuki. It is further respectfully submitted that claims depending from claims 3 and 5 are equally allowable.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 11-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Suzuki, in view of Sato, U.S. Patent No. 5,099,278. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the above, it is further submitted that at least Suzuki and Sato fail to disclose or suggest the claimed feature of independent claims 11-13 and 16. In addition, for at least the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims depending from claims 11-13 and 16 are equally allowable.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

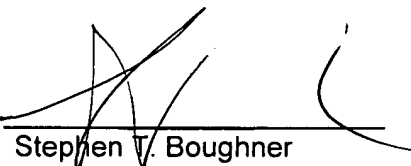
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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